

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 303644  
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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MADRID PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY RABAT PRIORITY

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 303644

EXDIS

FOL RPT ALGIERS 3160 SENT ACTION SECSTATE DTD 19 DEC 7

QUOTE: C O N F I D E N T I A L ALGIERS 3160

EXDIS

FOR S/S

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PDIP, AG, SS, FR

SUBJ: LETTER TO SECRETARY FROM ALGERIAN FONMIN

1. ON DEC 19 ALGERIAN FONMIN POLITICAL AFFAIRS DIRGEN BOUSSELHAM  
DELIVERED TO AMBASSADOR UNSIGNED LETTER TO SECRETARY FROM ALGERIAN  
FONMIN BOUTEFLIKA. INFORMAL EMBASSY TRANSLATION OF FRENCH TEXT  
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FOLLOWS:

"HIS EXCELLENCY CYRUS VANCE

"SECRETARY OF STATE

OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

"WASHINGTON, D.C.

"MR. SECRETARY:

"PRESIDENT BOUMEDIENE AND I WERE VERY APPRECIATIVE OF THE

TERMS OF YOUR LETTER OF LAST NOVEMBER 2 AND NOTED WITH SATISFACTION YOUR APPRECIATION FOR THE ACTION OF THE ALGERIAN GOVERNMENT AIMED AT FACILITATING A SOLUTION TO THE PROBLEM POSED BY THE DETENTION OF FRENCH CITIZENS BY THE POLISARIO FRONT.

"IT IS A FACT THAT THIS STATE OF AFFAIRS, WHICH IS OF CONCERN IN MORE WAYS THAN ONE, IS SIMPLY THE CONSEQUENCE OF THE EVENTS WHICH HAVE PLUNGED THE WESTERN SAHARA INTO MOURNING SINCE THE ANNEXATION AND DIVISION OF THE NATIONAL TERRITORY OF THE SAHARAUI PEOPLE IN VIOLATION OF ALL RECOGNIZED PRINCIPLES AND ALL DECISIONS ADOPTED BY THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY.

"YOU HAVE DOUBTLESS LEARNED THAT THE POLISARIO FRONT HAS JUST DECIDED TO LIBERATE THE FRENCH PRISONERS. THIS CAN ONLY BE PLEASING TO THE ALGERIAN GOVERNMENT SINCE THE DECISION IS IN LINE WITH THE EFFORTS WHICH, FOR ITS PART, IT HAS CONSTANTLY MADE.

"HOWEVER, YOU WILL AGREE WITH ME THAT THE SUBSTANTIVE PROBLEM OF THE RIGHT OF THE SAHARAUI PEOPLE TO SELF-DETERMINATION REMAINS AND THAT THE SITUATION IN THE REGION IS GROWING MORE GRAVE, NOTABLY BECAUSE OF FRENCH INTERFERENCE AND MILITARY INTERVENTION WHICH, FAR FROM FACILITATING THE EMERGENCE OF A PERIOD OF PEACE AND STABILITY, CONTRIBUTE ON THE CONTRARY TO AGGRAVATING TENSIONS AND TO COMPLICATING THE SEARCH FOR A SOLUTION TO THE PROBLEM

"ALL THIS IS TO SAY, MR. SECRETARY, HOW MUCH MY GOVERNMENT WOULD LIKE TO PERSUADE THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT OF THE NECESSITY OF UNDERSTANDING MORE OBJECTIVELY THE PROBLEM OF THE WESTERN SAHARA AND OF CONTRIBUTING TO ITS SOLUTION ON JUST AND DURABLE FOUNDATIONS  
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IN CONFORMITY WITH THE RIGHT OF PEOPLE TO DECIDE THEIR OWN FATE. AS CONCERNS ALGERO-FRENCH RELATIONS, I WOULD LIKE TO ASSURE YOU OF OUR CONSTANT WISH TO SEE THEM DEVELOP IN A FRIENDLY AND CONSTRUCTIVE WAY, ALL THE MORE SINCE THE TIES EXISTING BETWEEN THE TWO PEOPLES GIVE THESE RELATIONS A SPECIAL CHARACTER. NEVERTHELESS, OUR WISH CAN ONLY BE REALIZED IF THE FRENCH LEADERS ARE MOTIVATED BY THE SAME POLITICAL DESIRE TO WORK FOR BALANCED AND EGALITARIAN RELATIONS THAT RESPECT THE MAJOR OPTIONS AND INTERESTS OF THEIR PARTNER.

"FURTHERMORE, RECOGNIZING PRESIDENT CARTER'S INTENSE INTEREST IN RESPECT FOR THE RIGHTS OF MAN, I AM CONVINCED THAT, IN THE CASE OF THE WESTERN SAHARA, HE COULD NOT REMAIN INSENSITIVE TO THE TRAGIC SITUATION OF THOUSANDS OF REFUGEES DRIVEN FROM THEIR COUNTRY AND ASPIRING TO RETURN THERE WILL ALL THE RIGHTS WHICH INTERNATIONAL BODIES HAVE UNANIMOUSLY RECOGNIZED.

"THE FURTHER WITNESS WHICH YOUR LETTER BEARS TO THE PREOCCUPATION OF THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES WITH THE WESTERN SAHARA PROBLEM AND WITH ITS REPERCUSSIONS IN THE REGION IS TRUE TO THE SPIRIT OF THE FRIENDLY CONCERT OF VIEWS WHICH MARKED THE DISCUSSION I HAD WITH YOU IN PARIS ON THE OCCASION OF THE CONFERENCE ON INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC COOPERATION. I WOULD LIKE, MR. SECRETARY, TO EXPRESS TO YOU ONCE MORE MY SATISFACTION AT THE CHARACTER OF THIS

MEETING, OF WHICH I HAVE THE BEST OF MEMORIES, AND AT THE SAME TIME TO THANK YOU FOR THE WARMTH OF THE WELCOME YOU ACCORDED ME DURING MY VISIT TO WASHINGTON. INCONTESTABLY, BOTH UNDERLINE THE DESIRE OF OUR TWO GOVERNMENTS TO PURSUE THE DEVELOPMENT OF THEIR COOPERATIVE RELATIONSHIP IN A CLIMATE OF UNDERSTANDING, ESTEEM AND FRIENDSHIP.

"PLEASE ACCEPT, MR. SECRETARY AND GOOD FRIEND, THE EXPRESSION OF MY HIGH CONSIDERATION.

ABDELAZIZ BOUTEFLIKA  
MEMBER OF THE COUNCIL OF THE REVOLUTION  
MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS"

2. ORIGINAL TEXT OF LETTER BEING POUCHED S/S.

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3. COMMENTS FOLLOW SEPTTEL.

4. DEPT MAY WISH REPEAT LETTER TO EMBASSIES MADRID, NOUAKCHOTT, PARIS, RABAT AND TO USUN. HAYNES UNQUOTE VANCE

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## Message Attributes

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**TAGS:** PDIP, PSDC, AG, SS, FR, (BOUTEFLIKA, ABDELAZIZ), (VANCE, CYRUS R)  
**To:** MADRID NOUAKCHOTT MULTIPLE  
**Type:** TE  
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